2004 Joint Commission on Technology and Science
Meetings
<u>Final Report Talking Points</u>

I. Organizational Meeting – May 26
- Update on Administration's Activities and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA).
- Recommended a reappointment to the ITIB, which Joint Rules accepted.

II. Blacksburg Tour – August 3
- Received a briefing about High Performance Supercomputing and its Impact on the Commonwealth from the Dean of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering and actually saw the Supercomputer (third fastest in the world at the time).
- Toured the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and discussed a new program called the Global Pathogen Portal Web Project (PathPort): a portal for researchers to gather, store, analyze and integrate data on pathogens from around the globe. The system will enable researchers to examine the link between and among the host, the environment, the method of transfer and the pathogen and will advance research and discovery related to infectious diseases. Bioinformatics is an integration of information technology and biology - a true blend of science and technology.
- Received a briefing on the Commercial Prospects for Nanotechnology Research at Virginia Tech. The Commission learned about the Fiber & Electro-Optics Research Center, which focuses on advanced materials and electronics and has more than 100 issued patents with more than 80% licensed by industry. It also learned about the Applied Biosciences Center, which focuses on improving public health by making advances in biosciences commercially available. Some of the Biosciences Center's research includes new coatings for biomedical implants to increase compatibility with the human body; a new, less-costly process for DNA analysis; and a more-focused process to replace chemotherapy.
- Dr. Charles Steger, Virginia Tech's President, briefed the Commission on other Virginia Tech Research Highlights in areas such as transportation, power electronics, biomedical engineering, molecular medicine, and agricultural and environmental issues. The University also has developed a virtual Jamestown to bring history to life.
- Lastly, we learned about Unmanned Systems, both remote controlled and independently-operated, working in all domains: land, sea, air, and space.

III. Computer Security Meeting – September 8
- The Commission received a briefing on the FBI's national initiative to provide forensic analysis and assist state and local law enforcement, as well as an overview what they can recover and how they do it.
- The Virginia State Police introduced the Commission to its Computer Evidence Recovery Unit.

- The Commission also learned about the need for a computer security plan and what elements it must cover.
- Finally, the Commission received a presentation and demonstration of biometric technologies that are currently available to control access to physical and digital infrastructures.

IV.   Updates
- Both Houses of Congress passed S.B. 150, extending the ban on State taxation of Internet access and on multiple or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce until November 1, 2007.
- FCC ruled on November 9 that the federal government, not states, has the authority to regulate phone service provided over the Internet.

V.   Commission Statutory Authority
- Conforming the Joint Commission on Technology and Science's requirements to meet the legislative guidelines adopted by the Joint Rules Committee
- Reducing the quorum from six to five members
- Modifying the term of the chair and vice chair to a two-year term coincident with the term of office for House members
- Changing references from "the Commission" to "JCOTS".